



# ART RETREAT

23 AUGUST – 27 AUGUST 2027

## **DAY 1 — *Inspiration & Reference Photography***

See the Zoo Through an Artist's Eyes

We'll begin our retreat exploring Australia Zoo with our cameras, learning what makes a great reference photo for an artwork. I'll show you what I look for in light, expression, composition, backgrounds and those little moments that tell a story.

Later, we'll look through our photos together, explore crops and composition ideas and choose the reference image you'd like to develop into your retreat artwork.

Then it's time to settle into Crocodile Hunter Lodge, enjoy a little downtime and our first dinner together.





# ART RETREAT

## 5 DAY ITINERARY

### **DAY 2 — *Building the Painting***

From Reference Photo to Artwork

Our first full studio day begins with a demonstration on creating backgrounds that support rather than compete with your animal. You'll then begin developing your own artwork from the reference you captured at the zoo, with plenty of individual guidance from me throughout the day.

There'll also be time to catch the Crocoseum show or head back into the zoo whenever inspiration calls.

### **DAY 3 — *Bringing Your Animal to Life***

Fur, Skin, Texture & Realism

Today we'll concentrate on bringing our animals to life. I'll demonstrate how I approach realistic fur and textured skin using layers, values, direction and edges — without drawing every single hair or wrinkle!

The rest of the day is yours to continue developing your artwork, with lots of studio time and one-on-one help from me.





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### **DAY 4 — *Create, Assess & Explore***

Your Day, Your Way

Another full creative day, with the freedom to spend it in the way that suits you. Continue your painting in the studio, join me for a relaxed animal sketching session, explore more of the zoo, photograph another favourite animal or catch a show you've missed.

We'll also have my Sit Back & Look! session, where I'll show you how to step away from your artwork, assess it as a whole and work out exactly what it needs next.

This day is about slowing down, enjoying the process and making the most of our last full day together.

### **DAY 5 — *One Last Day to Enjoy***

Relax, Explore & Farewell

After breakfast, there's no need to rush away.

Enjoy one last swim at the lodge, spend some time with your new art friends or head back into Australia Zoo for another wander, a favourite animal, a show or those last few reference photos.

Then we'll say our farewells and head home with new skills, new friendships, an artwork underway and probably far too many reference photos!



# ART RETREAT

## 5 DAY ITINERARY

### RETREAT FOCUS

This isn't about spending five days sitting in a studio or racing to finish a painting.

It's about experiencing Australia Zoo through an artist's eyes — photographing, observing, sketching and creating, while enjoying the freedom to explore, relax and spend time with like-minded women.

Some guests will want every possible minute in the studio. Others will want to split their time between painting, photographing animals, watching shows and enjoying the zoo.

**There's no right way to retreat.**

